THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Extension Work of Runway at Aurangabad Airport

5226. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of runway extension at Aurangabad Airport is still going on and if so, since when and what is the targeted date for its completion; and

(b) by when Airbus Flights are proposed to be started from this airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work on extension of runway to 7500 ft. at Aurangabad airport commenced in September, 1994 and is expected to be completed by September, 1995. Indian Airlines has plans to operate Airbus 320 aircraft on completion of runway expansion work and associated payment development work.

Expansion of Vayudoot Services in States

5227. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the cities and towns presently connected by Vayudoot service;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to connect some more important cities and towns of Orissa with the adjoining cities and towns of the neighbouring states of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh by Vayudoot service; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot presently operates to the following station:—

1. Calcutta
2. Cooch Behar
3. Bagdogra
4. Silchar
5. Lilabari
6. Dibrugarh
7. Guwahati
8. Agartala
9. Aizwal
10. Zero
11. Tezu
12. Dimapur
13. Shillong

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Diversion of East-West Airlines Flight

5228. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Indian Express' (Bombay) of May 25, 1994 regarding the diversion of East-West Airlines Madurai-Thiruvananthapuram - Bombay bound flight from its scheduled route of Kochi;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard and under what circumstances, for what purpose and under whose orders, the flight was diverted from its scheduled route causing great inconvenience and harassment to the passengers, particularly women and children and disruption in the schedule of the flights;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the allegations made in this case; if so, what are the details of the inquiry and what action has been taken in pursuance thereof; and

(d) what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent occurrance of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.